CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for use in delivering programming content, said method comprising:

(a) dividing the programming content into smaller chunks of data;

(b) creating a chunk file for each chunk of data, said chunk file including said chunk of data and a message digest for verifying integrity of said chunk of data; and

(c) generating a manifest file that includes information describing how to assemble the chunks of data.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a step of:

(d) transmitting the chunk files created in step (b) and the manifest file generated in step (c) to a remote location.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the chunk files and the manifest file are transmitted electronically.

4. A method according to claim 2, wherein the chunk files and the manifest file are transmitted on physical media.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the chunk files are distributed across a set of said physical media, and wherein each of said physical media in the set contains the manifest file.

6. A method according to claim 2, wherein at least one of the files transmitted in step (d) is transmitted electronically and at least one of the files is transmitted on a physical medium.

7. A method according to claim 1, wherein the manifest file includes a block message digest for verifying integrity of the programming content.

8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the manifest file includes, for each chunk of data, a message digest for verifying the integrity of said each chunk of data.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the manifest file identifies each chunk of data in the programming content.

10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the manifest file includes plural sets of information, each set of information describing how to assemble the chunks of data in a different predetermined manner.

11. A method for use in receiving programming content, said method comprising:

(a) receiving plural chunk files and a manifest file, the chunk files including chunks of data that together make up the programming content, each chunk file also including a message digest for verifying integrity of the chunk of data within the chunk file, and the manifest file including information describing how to assemble the chunks of data;

(b) storing the chunks of data; and

(c) assembling and playing the chunks of data according to the information in the manifest file.

12. A method according to claim 11, wherein in step (b) the chunks of data are stored such that each chunk remains separately identifiable.

13. A method according to claim 11, wherein the chunk files and the manifest file are received electronically.

14. A method according to claim 11, wherein the chunk files and the manifest file are received on physical media.

15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the chunk files are distributed across a set of said physical media, and wherein each of said physical media in the set contains the manifest file.

16. A method according to claim 11, wherein at least one of the files received in step (a) is received electronically and at least one of the files is received on a physical medium.

17. A method according to claim 11, wherein the manifest file includes a block message digest for verifying integrity of the programming content.

18. A method according to claim 11, wherein the manifest file includes, for each chunk of data, a message digest for verifying the integrity of said each chunk of data.

19. A method according to claim 11, wherein the manifest file identifies each chunk of data in the programming content.

20. A method according to claim 11, wherein the manifest file includes plural sets of information, each set of information describing how to assemble the chunks of data in a different predetermined manner.